

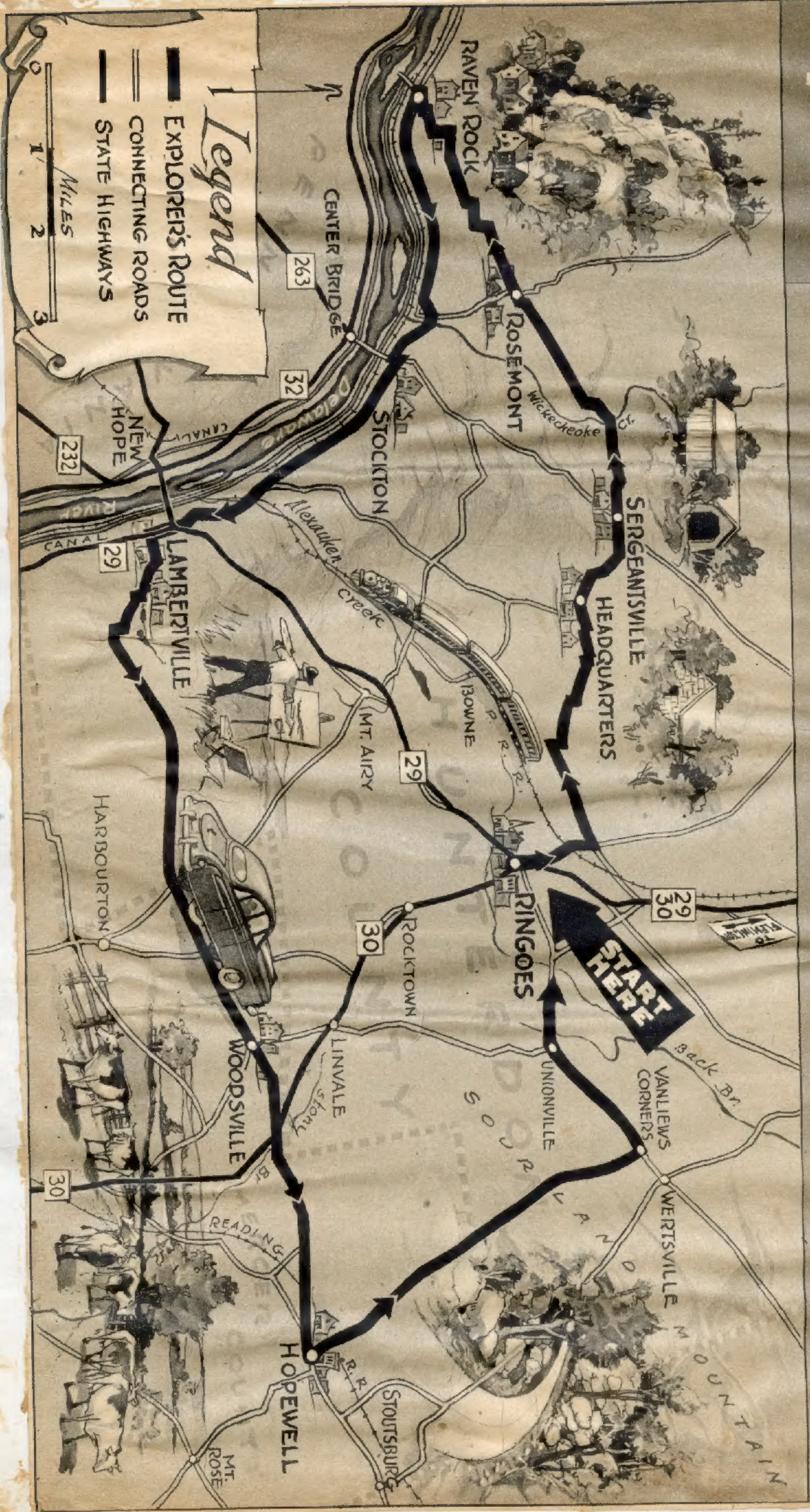
719. Roads (Cumming ham articles, 1951)

NEW JERSEY PREFERENCE
NEWARK LIBRARY

Let's
Explore—

MIDDLE DELAWARE VALLEY

Staff photos by Dorer.



news-july 29, 1951.

BY JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM

NATURE was in her most beneficent mood when she spilled the Sourland Mountains westward through Somerset, Mercer and Hunterdon counties and sloped them gently toward the Delaware River at Lambertville. Proof of that is amply contained in today's 40-mile automobile ramble through the picturesque river valley and the rolling mountains which shape it.

Routes 29 and 30 lead to Ringoes. There, as the highway curves downhill, a sharp right turn is made—the road almost doubling back on the highway. From Ringoes the route to the Delaware River and Lambertville by way of Headquarters, Sergeantsville and Rosemont is clear.

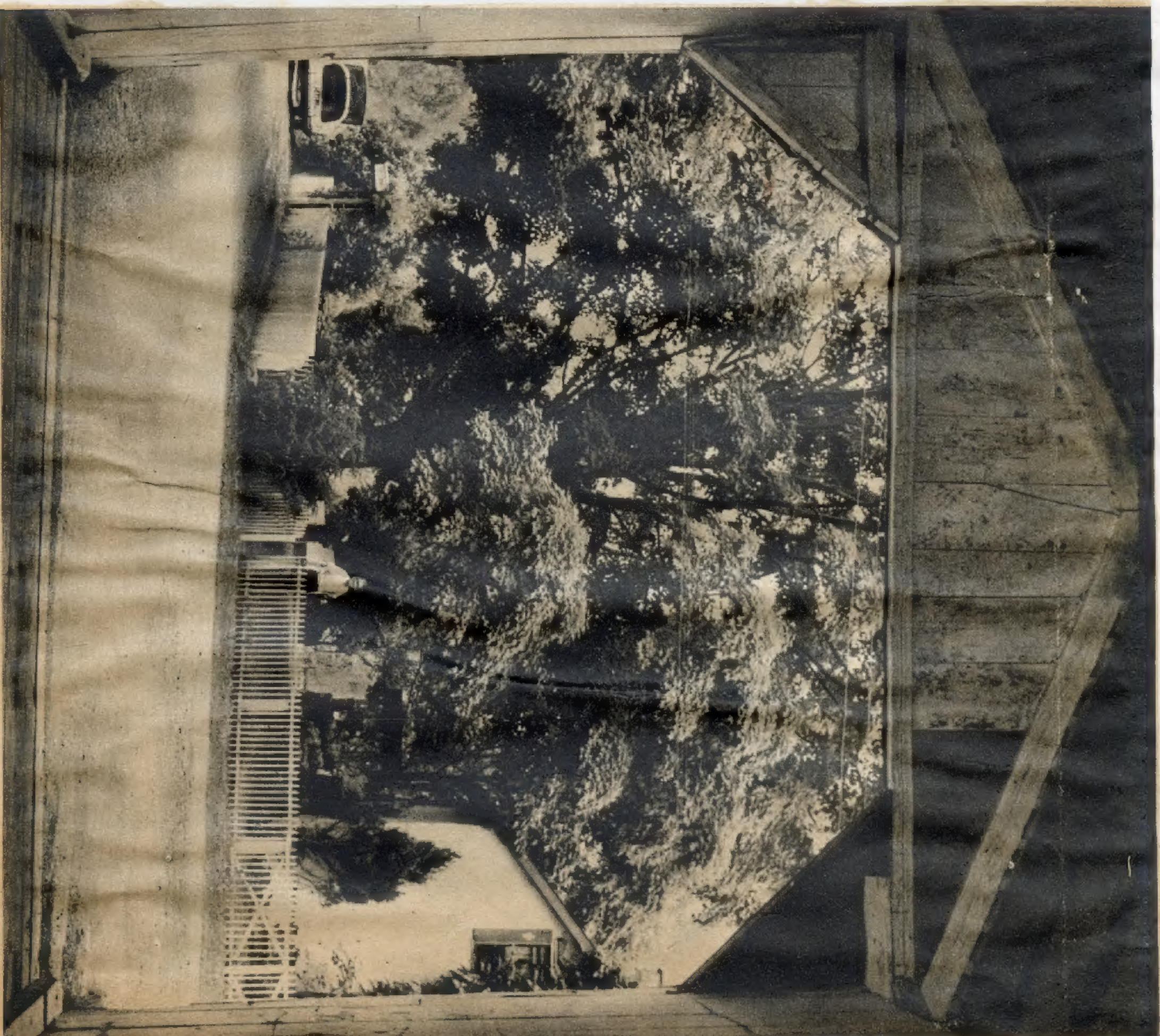
Headquarters boasts a two-story red sandstone house erected in the 1750's by John Updyck, where Gen. Washington is said to have stayed for three nights on his march to Trenton. Sergeantsville, whose name came from an early resident rather than the holder of a military rank, has the state's only covered bridge wholly within New Jersey boundaries.

In Rosemont keep left, then straight ahead for Raven Rock. The road changes from macadam to gravel and goes to a "T" intersection. Turn left, then take the next road right to Raven Rock, huddled beneath towering rock cliffs in the valley.

South of Raven Rock a good road carries through pretty little Stockton to Lambertville, attractive river town. Founded in 1705 as Coryell's Ferry, Lambertville has been thriving since as a main stop on stagecoach and automobile routes.

Bridge street leads out of Lambertville to Route 29, where a turn south is followed within a block by a left turn on Brunswick street. Ahead, after a 10-mile ride through excellent farmlands, is ever-charming Hopewell. Some reasons why Hopewell is worth a stop are these: The Old School Baptist Church, built in 1747, in whose cemetery is a monument to John Hart, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; the Speaking Stone, on which Joab Houghton stood in April, 1775, after the Battle of Lexington to implore men to follow him to Boston to enter the war; the Arthur King House, built in 1753, where the founder of Brown University was taught, and the well-appointed Hopewell Museum.

A left turn at Hopewell's bank on North Greenwood avenue leads through the heart of the Sourland Mountains to the northern valley. There a left turn assures a quick return to Ringoes.



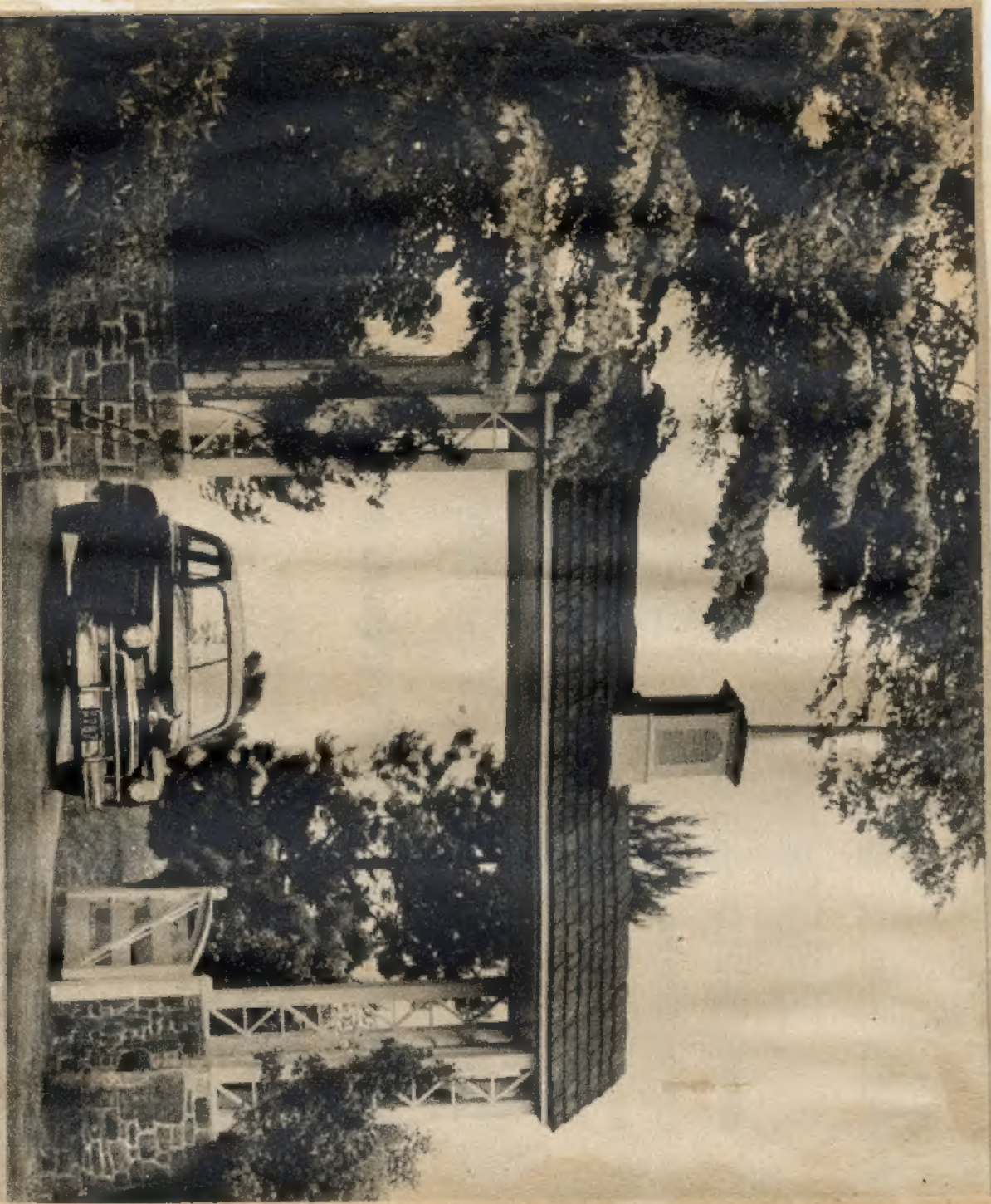
Western end of Sergeantsville covered bridge, last completely in Jersey, frames old house.



Groups of neat old buildings like these cling to business section of Lambertville, once the home of James Marshall, discoverer of California gold.



Two of the dwellings clustered at base of the great stone ledge
towering over Raven Rock. The rock formation is visible at rear.



Gateway to Paul Whiteman's farm, between Rosemont and Raven Rock. Many actors and artists have been buying farms in this section.



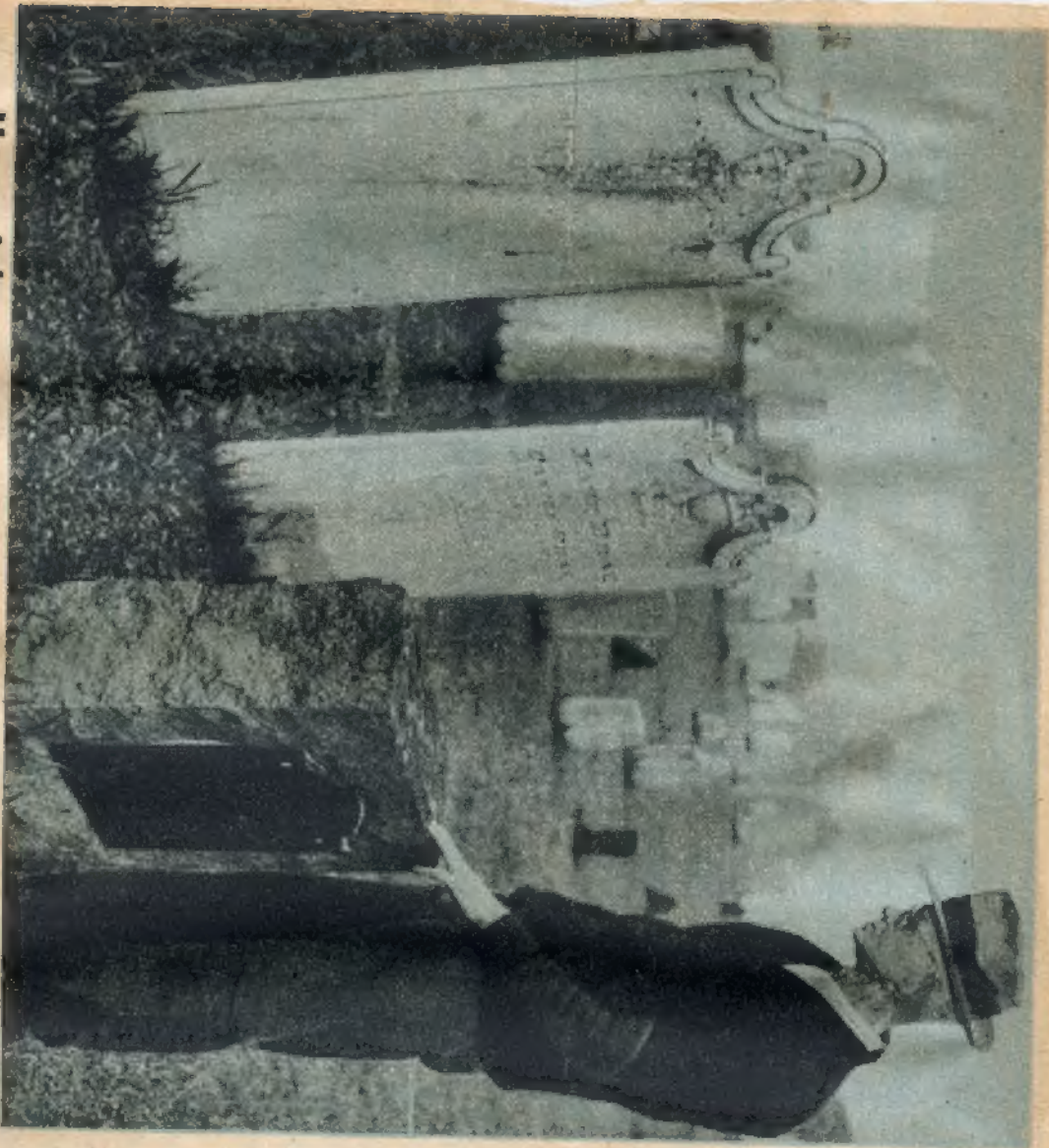
This peaceful street scene is typical of route in Headquarters.

The Updyck mansion, 200 years old, is a landmark at Headquarters. Old gristmill and storehouse are in foreground.





Stockton's charming old homes provide many delightful views for passing motorists. Baptist Church is at left.



Harry Johnson, 80, of Rosemont, views headstone on grave of Daniel Bray in that town. Bray gathered boats for Washington's crossing of Delaware.



Hopewell's Old School Baptist Church dates back to 1747. Tall monument in foreground honors John Hart, a signer of Declaration of Independence.